

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

W. C. Sullivan

D. Brennan

DATE: March 15, 1971

- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Felt

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Dalbey
- 1 - Mr. Brennan
- 1 - Mr. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. A.W. Gray
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Shackelford
- 1 - Mr. Cotter
- 1 - Mr. Hengemuhle

SEE REVERSE
SIDE FOR
CLASSIFICATION
ACTION ROOM
Holmes
Gandy

~~DELT~~

b6 per FBI
b7C per FBI

BURGLARY OF FBI RESIDENT AGENCY,
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA MARCH 8-9, 1971

SYNOPSIS:

CLASS. & EXT. BY
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW
CLASSIFICATION CHANGED PER CIA LTR 000 4/4/80

Domestic Intelligence Division has conducted detailed

review of 86 documents related to our work which Philadelphia Office has identified as being stolen. Damage assessment broken down into 3 main areas: (1) Racial Matters - 29 documents compromised in this area involve black extremist investigations. 6 confidential sources disclosed and 3 symbol number racial informants jeopardized as well as a now discontinued telephone surveillance on Black Panther Party office. Damage is believed serious except that our investigations of Black Student Union groups could be distorted to represent racially inspired inquiries or invasions of academic freedom. (2) New Left and Miscellaneous - 28 communications in this category deal with various New Left extremist and procommunist groups and individuals. Damage in this area could be considerable including possible loss of 2 valuable and established informants covering Klan and one covering White Panther Party. Also, several communications reveal

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for a touchy problem if disclosed. (3) Espionage and Foreign Intelligence - 29 documents in this area relate to variety of subjects including investigations of members of Jewish Defense League, visitors to and from communist countries, and

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In addition, one document refers to Another communication cites Defense Supply Agency policies concerning travel to communist countries by employees of industrial firms. Several documents refer to "Security Index" and one set of criteria is listed. 6 classified documents are involved, suggesting espionage violations when perpetrators apprehended. In addition to specific disclosure of various investigations, sources and programs, revelation of these documents publicly could lead to distorted allegations of Bureau's interest in campus activities, could jeopardize our relationship with various private and Federal agencies including Telephone Company, and could lessen public confidence in Bureau's ability to maintain confidential relationships. Individual writeups on all items of correspondence set forth in attached exhibit

Enc. 1 ENCLOSURE

RECYCLED
MAR 24 1971

ENCLO. BEHIND FILE ~~SECRET~~ RECOMMENDATIONS - PAGE 2
SEE DETAILS - PAGE 3

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Declassify on: OADR
Date of Declassification Indefinite
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3
Classified by: 1257 RDD/BJP
Declassified by: 1257 RDD/BJP
Declassify on: OADR
Date of Declassification Indefinite
Exempt from GDS, Category 2, 3
Classified by: 1257 RDD/BJP
Declassified by: 1257 RDD/BJP

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
RE: BURGLARY OF FBI RESIDENT AGENCY,
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA, MARCH 8-9, 1971

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1) We are ordering Philadelphia Office to clearly show on all copies of documents stolen, both in its files and in files of auxiliary offices, the fact they were stolen. Philadelphia also being instructed to take steps so this will be clearly shown in files of all informants and sources involved. We will take similar action regarding copies of documents and informant files maintained at Bureau. This believed necessary to insure that all subsequent action in substantive cases involving compromised documents may be weighed and evaluated accordingly. U

(2) We are instructing Philadelphia to insure that all auxiliary offices whose investigative subjects, informants or sources, or Agent personnel were named are notified. Philadelphia will instruct such offices to review the material to insure any needed precautionary or remedial action is promptly taken. Since the avowed purpose of the theft of these documents is to use them in a manner inimical to the best interest of the Bureau, it is believed necessary that all Agent personnel whose identities have been compromised be so notified and that other offices having bases so compromised may be placed on notice so that all precautionary measures may be taken to avoid any embarrassment to the Bureau. U

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(3) It is recommended that the following outside agencies be advised of theft of particular documents involving them: [redacted] with respect to items showing [redacted]

[redacted] (for specific information on this point, refer to page 64 in attached exhibit): [redacted]

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[redacted] see page 78 of attached exhibit): and [redacted]

[redacted] (see page 103 of attached exhibit) (S) (X) - Refer to [redacted]

(4) Domestic Intelligence Division will follow results of investigation in this case to evaluate, when the case is solved, whether prosecutive action for violation of the espionage statutes is feasible. In this connection, it is not being suggested that the matter be handled as an espionage investigation, but it is believed desirable that individuals interviewed who could be involved or have knowledge of those who may be involved in the burglary be advised of possible espionage implications.

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Knowledge of such prosecutive potential might result in more cautious use of the stolen documents by those who now hold them. *u*

(5) We will continue to carefully review any additional items of correspondence furnished by Philadelphia Office with a view to protecting the Bureau's interests. *u*

(6) That Inspection Division evaluate the overall problem of resident agency security. This has been the topic of specific inspection interest in accordance with the Director's approval of recommendation in a memorandum dated 2/6/67 on the subject matter of "FBI Security Committee." A specific recommendation was made and approved in this memorandum that the Inspection Division during field office inspections pay particular attention to the security hazards of resident agencies to determine any vulnerability to clandestine entry. *u*

*we have recommended
to install burglar alarms in
all Resident agencies.*

3/18

WBS

✓ RIE

WBS

Recommendations (1) thru (5)
handled by C.D. BRENNAN memo
to all Section Chiefs 3/23/71
BT

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Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan
Re: Burglary of FBI Resident Agency,
Media, Pennsylvania, March 8-9, 1971

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DETAILS:

Reference my memorandum 3/12/71 advising that we were conducting a detailed review of the documents related to work in Domestic Intelligence Division which Philadelphia Division has identified as having been taken in the burglary of the Media Resident Agency. A total of 86 such documents have been identified to date by Philadelphia Office and we have prepared an individual write up on each item (which are attached as an appendix to this memo). These write ups show the background of the various cases involved together with the identity of the particular document taken, as well as a damage assessment for each item. U

For purposes of convenience, this memorandum which summarizes the Domestic Intelligence Division damage assessment to date, is broken down into three categories covering Racial Matters, New Left and Miscellaneous, and Espionage and Foreign Intelligence Matters. There was a nearly even division in material falling into these three categories. U

Racial Matters

A review of 29 documents pertaining to racial investigations shows investigative interest in 57 individuals involved in extremist Black Panther Party (BPP) and Republic of New Africa (RNA). Investigative interest in 23 organizations also shown. These include BPP and RNA, in addition to National Black Economic Development Conference (NBEDC), the group demanding reparations from white churches; the Black Student Union at Pennsylvania Military College; and the Swarthmore Afro Students Society, Swarthmore College. Officers of these student groups are included in 47 individuals identified as targets of investigative interest. Also included in 23 organizations named are 12 black student groups, subject of preliminary inquiries to determine extent of extremist influence. U

Six confidential sources of information, including one ghetto racial source, one potential racial informant in MAR, two security officers on college campuses, and two administrative employees on campus, are mentioned by name. (One of administrative employees is also mentioned in section dealing with New Left matters.) Three symbol number racial informants in NBEDC may possibly be exposed, if the organization carefully analyzed information they furnished. U

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A summary of 18 paraphrased conversations furnished by a telephone surveillance, PH 1209-R*, could possibly reveal surveillance, which was on Black Panther Party headquarters in Philadelphia. This source, approved by Attorney General, was discontinued 2/10/71. u

Two classified documents were included in those taken, an FBI letterhead memorandum on NBEDC and an FBI report on RNA. Both were classified "CONFIDENTIAL." u

Three investigative aids, the Black Extremist Fugitive List, the Black Nationalist Photograph Album, and the Racial Calendar, were mentioned in a letter to all Special Agents in Charge. The letter noted the Fugitive List is to be furnished to all offices and mentions the Photograph Album and Calendar, but does not describe them. u

New Left and Miscellaneous

Twenty-eight of the communications cited by Philadelphia Office deal with New Left matters or with individuals under investigation because of ties with miscellaneous subjects. These include correspondence regarding various factions of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), pro-Chicom Progressive Labor Party, violence-prone White Panther Party, and Trotskyite Young Socialist Alliance. In six instances, correspondence concerns subjects with no clear-cut organizational ties but with alleged militant or pro-Marxist backgrounds or sympathies. In addition, three items relate to Klan investigations in Philadelphia area. u

Altogether, 56 individuals and 5 organizations are identified as being of investigative interest to FBI or subjects of individuals case files, including 22 individuals connected with the cKlan. u

Portions of two SAC letters are included but in both instances the information is harmless and could not reasonably be used to injure Bureau: one merely cites administrative procedures relative to teletype reporting and the other cautions field not to photograph visitors to Federal agencies without specific Bureau approval. A copy of monograph prepared at Seat of Government was also included in material taken; however, this document, "The Struggle Against Lawlessness," contains no sensitive or potentially damaging information even if released publicly. u

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Correspondence relating to substantive cases could result in following damage if publicized or made known to subjects or sources named: U

(1) Two administrative-type established sources at

are identified by name. U

(2) Two Klan informants, one in Philadelphia and one in Atlanta Division, are shown by symbol number together with detailed information furnished by them which would probably result in their compromise examined by knowledgeable persons. Both informants are valuable, established sources and

and affords us high level coverage, including

(3) White Panther Party informant of New York Office is identified by symbol number and correspondence makes it clear that New York Office has a well-placed female source in group. would not be directly compromised if this communication were publicized, but might come under suspicion. U

(4) Two confidential sources are named and shown to be furnishing data to Bureau

(5) In a number of instances, the correspondence sets out leads to obtain telephone toll call information and to check records of various nearby colleges with regard to both present and past students. This information could be used in an effort to cause embarrassment to the telephone companies or colleges involved. Conceivably legal action could be instituted to prevent their future cooperation with the Bureau. U

(6) Several items of correspondence related to a group of American draft evaders in Canada and reveal cooperation with us in providing immigration data and public source information concerning individuals connected with the group. There is no indication is actively investigating group or seeking to infiltrate it on our behalf, but this whole issue is highly sensitive one in Canada and could become a touchy matter for to handle if publicly disclosed. (S)(U)

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b6 per FBI
b7C per FBI

(7) One item of correspondence relates to [redacted]
[redacted] on whom we conducted
discreet inquiry based on allegations she was procommunist.
With Director's approval, we advised [redacted] of our
investigation at its outset. The item of correspondence in
question does not specifically show that the subject [redacted]
[redacted] u

Espionage and Foreign Intelligence Matters

b7E per FBI

Twenty-nine of the documents related to Bureau work
in this field and reveal [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] 12 persons investigated
as militant members of Jewish Defense League (JDL), including
one Rabbi. Organizations involved are JDL, visiting Soviet cultu-
ral group, "Circus on Ice," Young Lords Party (revolutionary
Puerto Rican youth group) and United Front For Korean Democracy. (S)

Four confidential sources are mentioned by name b7D per FBI
including fact that they were cooperating with Bureau. Two were

[redacted]
[redacted] Remaining two furnished
information about [redacted] one is [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

b7E per FBI

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Frequent mention is made both of results of leads to check records of various local, state and Federal agencies, including INS, CIA, State (Passport records), local voter registration records, credit records, police records, telephone toll charge records, Board of Education records and hospital records. One document contains results of investigation at a mental hospital which sets out medical diagnosis of subject's mental condition. In the wrong hands, this could be used to charge hospital with breach of medical ethics. ~~(U)~~

Several Bureau counterintelligence procedures were mentioned in the communications taken: ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~

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Several documents refer to ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~

Surfacing of these documents would indicate to hostile intelligence service and to general public that Bureau has investigative technique of ~~(U)~~

However, communist intelligence probably suspects as much already. ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~

b7E per FBI

Another document identifies a subject who immigrated here from a communist country but it is not treated as a "program-type" case. ~~(U)~~

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Mention is made of the initials "SI" and of "Security Index" and "Priority III" of Security Index. One document asks for field to consider recommending Jewish Defense League subjects for inclusion in Security Index and sets out one SI criteria. Another document makes reference to initials "AI" but does not spell it out as Agitator Index. u

b7E per FBI

In addition to exposing our interest in [redacted], two documents pinpoint investigation on visitors to Czechoslovakian Embassy and Soviet Consular Office, Washington, D. C. Our interest in visitors to communist establishments in U.S. is known to communist intelligence services, and therefore damage in this connection is minimal. ~~SECRET~~

Classified Documents Involved

To date, of the Domestic Intelligence Division material identified by Philadelphia as being stolen, 6 classified documents are involved. All of these are "Confidential" and are described further as follows: ~~SECRET~~

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[redacted] a Bureau letterhead memorandum concerning a member of the Young Socialist Alliance; a field letterhead memorandum on the "National Black Economic Development Conference"; a Bureau report on the "Republic of New Africa"; and a letterhead memorandum on the "Visit of Soviet 'Circus on Ice' to the U.S., 1970." The fact that classified documents were involved will enable us to consider espionage violations when subjects are apprehended and this will be borne in mind. However, it is noted that many of the intra-Bureau correspondence involved were not classified but related to extremely sensitive matters and would have been classified prior to any dissemination outside the Bureau. ~~SECRET~~ u

Summary of Damage Assessment

Of the 86 documents identified by Philadelphia to date concerning Domestic Intelligence Division matters, this correspondence specifically identifies 167 individuals and 32 organizations as of investigative interest to the FBI. 13 confidential sources of information are specifically named and, in addition, 7 symbol number informants could be compromised. One telephone surveillance (on Black Panther Party) has possibly been compromised, although this coverage has already been discontinued. u

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Actual amount of damage done to our investigations will depend on many factors not yet determined. Final damage will hinge primarily on extent of disclosure of various documents and whether they are revealed to unfriendly, subversive or hostile elements such as New Left press outlets or communist intelligence services. Therefore, no exact estimates can be rendered at this time as to the amount of damage done. Nonetheless, we can make following tentative damage assessments with respect to three principal categories involved (racial, new left and miscellaneous, and foreign intelligence). u

Racial

In general, damage in this field is believed to be moderate as to informant loss and it is felt that most of the sources compromised could probably be replaced within reasonable period of time. Potentially the most damaging item in this category involved our investigative interest in various Black Student Union groups. Although we only have interest in extremist influences in these student groups, unfriendly critics could seek to portray our investigations as invasion of academic freedom or racially inspired investigations. u

New Left and Miscellaneous

Potential damage here is considerable, including possible loss of two valuable established Klan informants and one White Panther Party informant. In addition, our confidential relationship with [redacted] could be impaired and various communications could be distorted in effort to depict FBI as having wide-ranging investigative interest in college activities. ~~u~~ u

b7D per FBI

Espionage and Foreign Intelligence Matters

Potential damage in this area is considered moderate with the exception of disclosures relating to [redacted] and Security Index. Publicity regarding these three items would not only materially affect our operations ~~u~~ u

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[REDACTED]
Our interest in JDL could be twisted into alleged anti-Semitic one although organization is well documented as militant group (X) M

In addition to above specific areas, frequent reference in compromised documents to our checking various local, state and Federal records could be misconstrued and form basis for an unfounded allegation that Bureau engages in gestapo-type investigations. We also face potential intangible repercussions because of this incident as public could lose confidence in our ability to maintain confidential relationships. This, of course, would depend on extent of publicity given to stolen documents. At this point, there has been comparatively little publicity regarding the incident itself and no publicity as to any of the specific documents involved. U